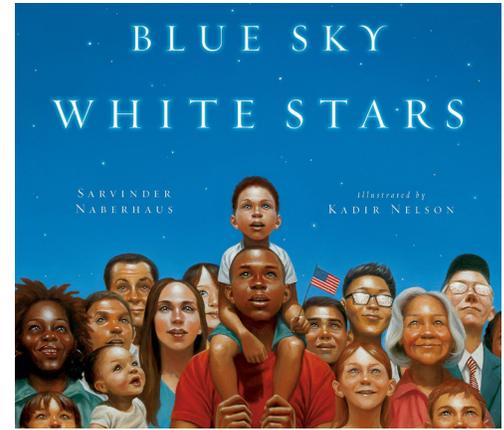


Blue Sky White Stars by Sarvinder Naberhaus

Book Synopsis: *Blue Sky White Stars* by Sarvinder Naberhaus and illustrated by Kadir Nelson is a simple, yet powerful story celebrating the United States and the American flag. Using words pulled from patriotic materials, the beautiful illustrations help tell a variety of stories from across the nation.

A recorded reading of this book is [available here](#).



Connection to Iowa History

During World War I, Iowa National Guardsmen recognized the need for an official state flag, as Iowa did not have a state flag to fly. A flag design submitted by Dixie Cornell Gebhardt, of Knoxville, was chosen in a contest held by the Iowa Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The design was adopted as the official state flag on March 29, 1921. The [original flag design](#) and a [portrait of Dixie Cornell Gebhardt](#) are held in the collection of the State Historical Museum of Iowa.

Goldie's Kids Club Storytime Activity

After reading or listening to the book, use the activity sheet to create and design your own state flag for Iowa.

Instructions ([Video Instructions Available](#))

- 1 **Examine.** Using the [activity sheet](#), look closely and investigate the official state flag of Iowa.
- 2 **Take notes.** Answer the provided questions to gain a better understanding of the flag. Why do you think the flag was designed this way?
- 3 **Brainstorm.** Using the provided prompts, write your answers to the questions to help develop the design of your own Iowa flag.
- 4 **Create.** Draw and color your own version of the Iowa flag using the provided drawing space. Be creative, and make sure to represent Iowa in your design!
- 5 **Cut.** Using scissors, cut out your flag design along the lines.
- 6 **Color.** Color the Popsicle stick using a coloring marker. We suggest coloring it gold, or yellow, to resemble a flag pole, but the design is up to you!
- 7 **Attach.** Using glue or a glue stick, attach the flag to the top of the Popsicle stick.
- 8 **Share!** After you make your flag, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo of your creation to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your work with others!

Materials

- [Iowa Flag activity worksheet](#)
- Colored pencils or markers
- Scissors
- Glue or glue stick
- Popsicle stick

Instructions continued on next page

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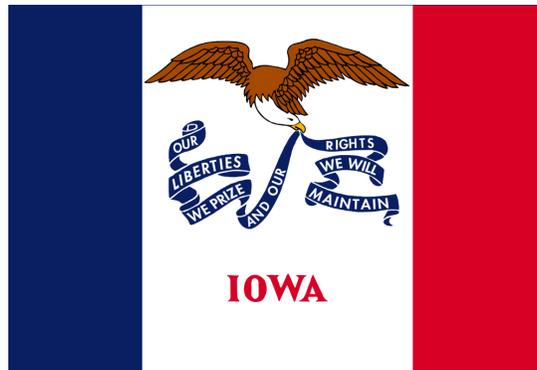
Instructions continued

9 Questions to Spark Learning

- Do you think the current state flag best represents the state of Iowa? Why or why not?
- *Blue Skies White Stars* uses simple words to show different parts of the country. If you had to match the words in the book to things in Iowa, what would you choose to show and why?
- Do you think state flags are important? Why or why not?

Iowa Flag Activity Worksheet

Directions: Use the questions below to examine the current Iowa flag and to help you design your own version. How will you represent the state in your new design?



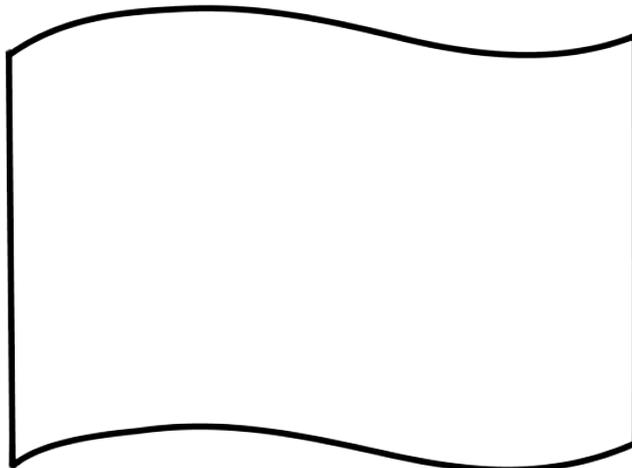
This is the official State of Iowa flag. Let's examine what we see.

1. What words or phrases can you read on the flag? Why do you think those words were chosen?

2. What symbols or items do you see on the flag? Why do you think it was chosen?

3. What colors are on the flag? Why do you think those colors were chosen?

4. What are your thoughts about the current flag design? Do you think it represents Iowa? Why or why not?



Use this outline to create your own Iowa flag. Think about what this new flag should look like using these questions to help your design. Be sure to incorporate some of your answers into your flag design.

1. What are some key words that make you think of Iowa? For example: agriculture, education, Midwest

2. What are some images or symbols that make you think of Iowa? For example: farm fields, wind turbines

3. What do you want people to think about Iowa when they see your flag design?

Follow-up Questions

1. How is your flag design different from the current Iowa state flag? How is it similar?

2. Explain the different elements that you included in your flag design. Why did you include those elements?
